

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	13-401
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 534 Water Redevelopment

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 4, GMU 43B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Southwest HPC

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[X] NO[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[X] NO[]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[X] → **HPC Project #:**

Project Type: Water Redevelopment

Brief Project Summary: The existing water developments have failed and water to this remote site is being maintained by a temporary 2600 gallon tank. A new PVC system needs to be installed to restore reliable water to local wildlife. Currently, there is no fence on this development and water is accessible by the large wild horse and burro population on YPG. Wildlife friendly, livestock enclosure fencing needs to be added to the site to prevent wild horses and burros from accessing this water.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Deer, Bighorn Sheep

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
Winter 2014-Spring 2015

Project End Date:
Winter 2014-Spring 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES[] No[] N/A[X]

Projected Completion Date: YPG Record of Decision complete

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

YES[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: Completed by YPG- 2006

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist:

To be Completed by: Alicia Nemlowill

Projected Completion Date: Winter 2013 - Spring 2014

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 24,274

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 8,000

Total Project Costs: \$ 32,274

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Alicia Nemlowill

Address:

9140 E. 28th Street

Yuma, Arizona 85367

E-mail:

anemlowill@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-856-0718

Date: 9/1/2013

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:

Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Previously, both a ring tank system and buried Xerxes tank system were installed at this location. Both systems have failed. Water to this site is being maintained by a 2600 gallon temporary tank. The failure of the existing water development and the low capacity of the temporary tank have caused an increase in manpower and maintenance costs to maintain water at this location. This water is located in a remote area down a rugged 4WD road, making water hauling extremely difficult, time consuming and labor intensive. Leaks in this system, although repaired as discovered, as well as low storage capacity make it unreliable. A redevelopment for the leaking buried system was originally proposed via a 2011 HPC proposal; however, funding was postponed, pending the further evaluation of repair possibilities by Development Branch personnel. A recent site visit by Joe Currie resulted in his assessment that the Xerxes tank is too badly cracked and the ground too rocky to make a reliable repair. A new buried PVC system will better withstand the rocky ground and reduce the amount of manpower hours and maintenance costs currently being incurred to maintain water availability. Wildlife friendly, livestock exclosure fencing needs to be installed to prevent wild horses and burros from utilizing this water source.

This water development is located near the Chocolate Mountains and is used by bighorn sheep, deer, nongame and small game (See attached photographs). Additionally, bobcats and mountain lions have periodically been documented using this water. This area is open to bighorn sheep hunting. Currently, six permits are offered annually in GMU 43B.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Maintain a reliable, low cost water source for bighorn sheep in the Chocolate Mountains.
Restore a reliable water source for deer and small game in the Chocolate Mountains.
Reduce costs associated with frequent water hauling and maintenance for this system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

We propose to dig a trench 100 feet long by 13 feet wide to a depth of 3 feet adjacent to the existing Xerxes tank (irreparably) within the existing footprint. Two foot diameter PVC pipe will be buried in the trench and will provide necessary storage tanks. A new walk-in style drinker will be installed. Modifications will be made to an existing metal apron and collection point to supply water to the system. Wildlife friendly, livestock exclosure fencing will be installed to prevent the local population of wild horses and burros from accessing the water on a 70 foot radius around the new drinker. As much of the old systems as possible will be removed, reducing the existing footprint of the project location.

PROJECT LOCATION:

This water development is located near the Chocolate Mountains, on Yuma Proving Grounds (N 33 14.971; W 114 17.893 or UTM, 11S, 751682mE, 3682226mN).

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

This project is located on U.S. Military land operated by the Yuma Proving Grounds under a federal land withdrawal. Portions of YPG are open to general hunting activities, while additional areas are restricted to the take of bighorn sheep only. The area where this project is located is open to bighorn sheep hunting.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Sonoran Desertscrub

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

4- 100 foot runs of 2 foot PVC pipe (20-20 ft sections)- \$13,290
3'd X 4'w Fiberglass Standard Walk-in drinker- \$3,294
Plumbing (Pipe, Fittings, Misc)- \$3,000
Wildlife Friendly Livestock Exclosure Fence- \$3,390
Arizona Department of Water Rights Permit Application Fee and associated costs-\$1,300

Cost Share or Matching Funds

\$8,000 Volunteer labor
Environmental and Archeological Clearance completed by Yuma Proving Grounds staff

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Archeological surveys and environmental compliance were conducted by Yuma Proving Grounds staff.

Volunteer labor is expected from Sportsman organizations to complete this project.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

This water development is monitored by the district wildlife manager throughout the year. The water is checked at a maximum 30 day interval between May and October and as needed throughout the winter months to prevent the system from going dry.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

This water development is maintained by the district wildlife manager and Region 4 water program as needed.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Alicia Nemlowill, Wildlife Manager III, FOR4

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*see attached worksheet*)

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT NAME: Repair of Development 534

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**

No.

- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**

Joseph Currie, 6/4/2013

- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**

☒2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☐8-10 ☐10-12 ☐12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16

- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES[] (please complete #5 below) NO[X] (skip #5 below)

- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**

Name of water source:

Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):

Ownership of water source:

Distance in miles from project:

- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES[] NO[X]

However, one of the target wildlife species, bighorn sheep, is a source population for transplants to other areas.

- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

Land is owned by the U.S. Military and operated by the Yuma Proving Grounds under a federal land withdrawal.

8) Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:

Type of access (mark one): ☐ 2x4 vehicles ☒ 4x4 only ☐ foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES ☐ NO ☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

Prior military clearance is required to access this area. Hunters must view a safety presentation and obtain an access permit and clearance from YPG prior to taking wildlife in this area.

9) Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.

4-100 foot runs of 2' diameter PVC pipe (20-20 ft sections)- \$13,290

3'd x 4'w Fiberglass Standard Walk-in drinker- \$3,294

Plumbing (Pipe, Fittings, Misc)- \$3,000

Wildlife Friendly Livestock Exclosure Fence- \$3,390

Arizona Department of Water Rights Permit Application Fee and associated costs-\$1,300

Volunteer labor to complete project- \$8,000

10) Was a site visit completed? Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

John Hervert, Regional Wildlife Program Manager, Alicia Nemlowill, District Wildlife Manager, Michael Sumner, Wildlife Manager Supervisor- Multiple

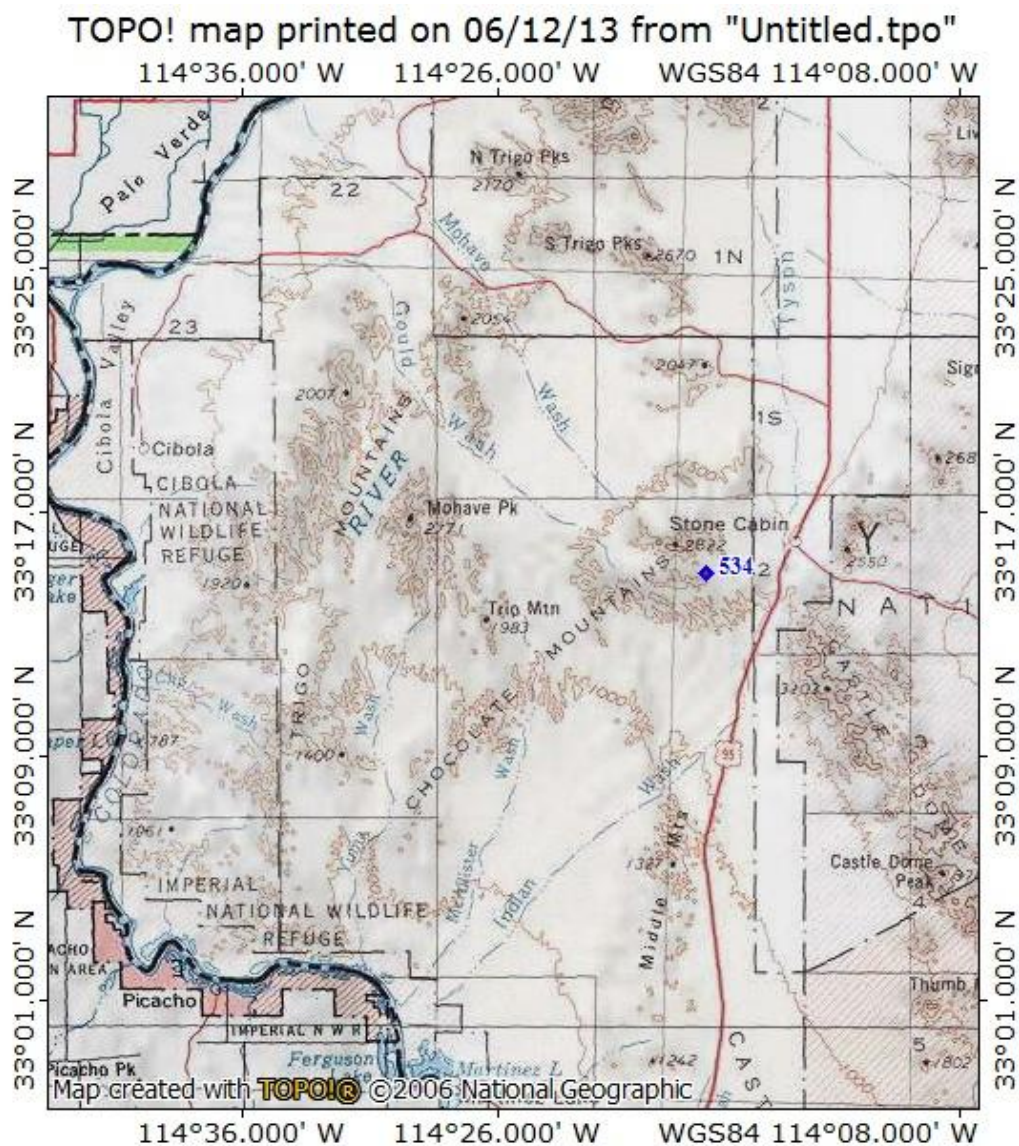
2006- YPG staff including Karla James (Archeologist)

May 2013- Special Services Division, AGFD, to evaluate reparability of damaged Xerxes tank.

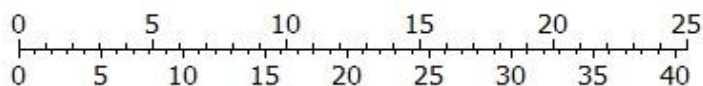
YPG biologist Daniel Steward and Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society- July 1, 2013







**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC**



TN ★ MN
12½
06/12/13

